

Applicant(s): Ralph et al.
Serial No.: 09/992,612
Filed: 11/13/2001
For: Polyaxial Pedicle Screw Having
a Threaded and Tapered
Compression Locking
Mechanism

Examiner: Reip, D.
Art Unit: 3731
Docket No.: F-146B
Dated: 1/28/2003

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

ADDITIONAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to the prosecution of the above-identified application, please amend the application as indicated below:

In the claims:

Please add claims 24-47.

CLEAN COPY OF NEW CLAIMS:

24. An orthopedic implant and bone anchoring member assembly wherein said bone anchoring member is selectively positionable and lockable at any one of a plurality of angles relative to said implant, said assembly comprising:

a bone anchoring member having a curvate head;

a bore formed in said orthopedic implant, said bore extending therethrough for receiving said curvate head in a lower portion thereof, said bore having an interior surface;

a first intervening member positioned in an upper portion of said bore; and

a second intervening member positioned in the lower portion of the bore between said curvate head and said interior surface,

wherein axial translation of said first intervening member urges said curvate head into locking contact with said second intervening member.

25. The assembly of claim 24, wherein said curvate head is semi-spherical.